

Psalms 96:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Give unto the LORD, O ye kindreds of the people, give unto the LORD glory and strength.

Analysis

Give unto the LORD, O ye kindreds of the people, give unto the LORD glory and strength. The psalm shifts from description (vv. 4-6) to exhortation: "Give unto the LORD" (havu la-Yahweh, הָבּוּ לַיהוָה) is repeated three times (here twice, again in v. 8), creating liturgical rhythm. "Give" (yahav, יָהַב) means to offer, ascribe, or attribute. We don't give God glory He lacks but acknowledge the glory He possesses.

"O ye kindreds of the people" (mishpechot amim, מִשְׁפְּחוֹת עַמִּים) addresses family groups, clans, tribes, and nations—the whole human family. The plural "peoples" indicates all ethnic groups, not just Israel. This universal scope anticipates the Great Commission: "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations" (Matthew 28:19) and Revelation's vision: "a great multitude...of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues" worshiping God (Revelation 7:9).

"Glory and strength" (kavod va-oz, כְּבוֹד וָעֹז) are the attributes to be ascribed. Kavod (כְּבוֹד) means weightiness, significance, honor, and glory—God's inherent worth. Oz (עֹז) means strength and might. To give God glory and strength is to publicly acknowledge His supreme worth and power, refusing to attribute these to idols, humans, or chance.

Historical Context

This universal call to worship transcends Israel's particular covenant while fulfilling it. God's covenant with Abraham promised blessing to all nations through his seed (Genesis 12:3; 22:18), ultimately fulfilled in Christ. The prophets envisioned all nations streaming to Zion to worship (Isaiah 2:2-3; 56:6-7; Micah 4:1-2). Psalm 96's missionary vision shaped early Christian understanding that the gospel must go to all peoples. Paul's mission to Gentiles and the Jerusalem Council's inclusion of non-Jews (Acts 15) enacted this psalm's call.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does this verse challenge ethnic or national pride by calling all 'kindreds of the people' to worship God?
2. What does it mean practically to 'give God glory and strength' in daily life, not just in worship services?
3. How should the universal scope of this call shape Christian missions and evangelism?

Interlinear Text

קִבְּ וְ	לַ יְהוָה ה	מְשֻׁפָּח וְ	עַמִּי ים	קִבְּ וְ	לַ יְהוָה ה
Give	unto the LORD	O ye kindreds	of the people	Give	unto the LORD
H3051	H3068	H4940	H5971	H3051	H3068
כְּבֹד וְ	וְעֹז:				
glory	and strength				
H3519	H5797				

Additional Cross-References

Revelation 19:1 (Glory): And after these things I heard a great voice of much people in heaven, saying, Alleluia; Salvation, and glory, and honour, and power, unto the Lord our God:

Matthew 6:13 (Glory): And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

Revelation 5:9 (Parallel theme): And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;

Psalms 22:27 (References Lord): All the ends of the world shall remember and turn unto the LORD: and all the kindreds of the nations shall worship before thee.

Revelation 7:12 (Glory): Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen.

Revelation 5:13 (Glory): And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever.